Manitoba Firearm Accidents Report

Hunting and Non-Hunting 1995

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please write to the Coordinator, Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, Box 44, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 3W3, or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

During 1995 there were 15 firearm related accidents compared to 9 in 1994 and 13 in 1993. Ten of these accidents were self-inflicted. There were no hunting related fatal accidents. Four of the accidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, compared to 5 in 1994.

Six of the fifteen reported accidents were not directly related to hunting. Of the nine remaining accidents, only one occurred during a licenced hunting season.

Of the 15 reported accidents, 12 occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, two at a distance of 10-50 yards and one at a distance of 50-100 yards. There was one accident involving a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Four of the fifteen accidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program - none of them fatal.

The Manitoba Hunter Safety course was completed by 2,381 students in 1995, up slightly from the 2,256 in 1994. 124,203 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total, 151 have later become involved in a firearm accident which represents only .12%.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	1994	1995
Victim out of sight of shooter.	1	1
Victim moved into line of fire.	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.	0	1
Victim mistaken for game.	1	0
Shooter stumbled and fell.	1	3
Using firearm as club.	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	0	1
Loaded firearm in vehicle.	0	1
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	0	0
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	3	2
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	0	0
Loading.	0	1
Unloading.	0	0
Defective firearm	0	1
Cleaning firearm	1	1
Loaded firearm in the home.	0	0
Accidental discharge.	1	2
Ricochet.	1	1
Other	0	0
Total	9	15

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1995	12.0

SYNOPSIS OF 1994 AND 1995 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1994	1995
A. Total Number of Accidents	9	15
Fatal	2	0
Non-fatal	7	15
B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season	2	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	2	1
2) Treaty Indian Hunting	1	5
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	0	5
3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	1	3
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	3
4) Non-hunting Accidents	5	6
Fatal in the home	0	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	1	0
Non-fatal in the home	1	4
Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Non-fatal outside the home	3	2
C. Shooter Unknown	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
D. Accidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age	5	4
All Types of Hunting	2	0
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	1	0
Non-hunting	3	4
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	2	4

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1994	1995
A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	**2**	**8**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	2	8
B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	**2**	**2**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	2	2
C. Shotgun	**3**	**4**
Fatal	2	0
Non-fatal	1	4
D. Hand Gun	**1**	**1**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	1
E. Pellet Gun	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
F. Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader	**1**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
Total	9	15

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1994	1995
0 to 10 yards	6	12
10 to 50 yards	0	2
50 to 100 yards	1	1
over 100 yards	2	0
Distance Unknown	0	0

OCCURRENCES

Time of Day	1994	1995
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	0	2
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	1
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	0	4
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	1*	0
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	0	1
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	7*	5
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	1	2
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	0	0
By Day		
Sunday	1	6
Monday	2*	3
Tuesday	0	0
Wednesday	1	1
Thursday	1	2
Friday	1	2
Saturday	3*	1
By Month		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	1	3
May	1	3
June	1	0
July	0	2
August	0	0
September	0	3
October	5*	2
November	1	0
December	0	2

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENSES SOLD

	GAME BIRD	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1964	45,974	31,716	77,690
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1994	23,251	62,293	85,624
1995	24,504	67,639	92,143

*indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS-LICENSED HUNTING ACCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING ACCIDENTS
1980	118,596	22	6
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1994	85,624	9	2
1995	92,143	15	1

SUMMARY OF 1995 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoys shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. WATCH THAT MUZZLE! Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.
3. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE, take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS, and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER; know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT; avoid all horseplay.
7. NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER; at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, beyond reach of children.
10. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES before or during shooting.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Friday April 21 7:30 pm	S - 13 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	No	Shooter carrying firearm over shoulder on strap. Fell and semi-auto discharged twice with one bullet striking head.
Sunday April 23 5:00 pm	S - 45 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non - hunting	No	Shooter had finished cleaning firearm and inserted clip. Left hand was over muzzle when bolt closed and firearm discharged.
Sunday April 30 3:30 pm	S - 46 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Gophers	No	While hunting gophers, shooter stumbled and fell, firearm discharged into left side of chest.
Sunday May 7 12:30 am	S - 36 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Beaver	No	After hunting beaver, shooter removed clip from firearm when placed in vehicle. Afterwards while firearm was being removed, live round in chamber discharged striking in right foot.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday May 8 2:00 pm	S - 24 Self Inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Ducks	No	While cleaning firearm in camp area, finger touched trigger and firearm discharged with injuries to right foot.
Friday May 19 4:00 pm	S - 34 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Geese	No	Shooter was pushing a canoe away from bank, when his arm hit the rifle and it discharged. Safety not functioning. Injury to right wrist.
Sunday July 16 7:00 am	S - 19 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non - hunting	No	Shooter moving firearm - video tape tangled on trigger - discharged - injury to right foot.
Sunday July 30 7:00 pm	S - 15 V - 14	No	38 cal. handgun	0 - 10 yds	Non - hunting	No	Shooter playing with handgun - didn't know it was "loaded". Discharged. causing injury to left shoulder of victim.
Sunday Sept. 10 7:45 am	S - 43 V - 20	No	32 cal. rifle	50-100 yds	Moose	No	Victim was out of sight of shooter when he fired at a moose resulting in an injury to right thigh. No hunter orange worn.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday Sept. 25 6:45 am	S - 56 V - 56	No	12 gauge shotgun	10-50 yds	Geese	Yes	Non-resident hunters - shooter swung on geese, fired and hit victim with pellets in left arm, left neck and left side.
Wednesday Sept. 27 4:45 pm	S - 16 V - 14	No	22 cal. rifle	10-50 yds	Non - hunting	Yes	Shooter and victim target shooting along river bank. Ricochet from shooters rifle hit victim in left knee.
Saturday Oct. 7 7:00 am	S - 21 Self Inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Geese	Yes	While hunting geese from pit, accidentally discharged firearm causing wound to left foot.
Thursday Oct. 26 12:30 am	S - 20 Self Inflicted	No	243 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Skunk	Yes	While looking for a skunk, shooter forgot he had put shell in chamber and when he bent down, finger was on trigger and firearm accidentally discharged hitting him in left foot.
Thursday Dec. 21 5:30 pm	S - 17 V - 16	No	Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non - hunting	No	Group of males playing around - one male attempted to put a shell in firearm and it discharged striking victim in neck.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday Dec. 25 5:00 am	S - 36 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Rabbits	No	Shooter tripped and fell, firearm discharged and wounded right forearm. Alcohol involved in this accident.